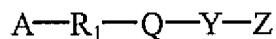


**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 15 of page 9 to read as follows:

An inventive conjugating agent has the general formula:



where A-R<sub>1</sub> is a cholesterol derivative; a C<sub>8</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> alkyl; C<sub>8</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> heteroatom substituted alkyl wherein the heteroatom is O, N or S; where A is a hydrophilic moiety A that illustratively includes C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl-hydroxy, -substituted amino, -quaternary amino, -sulfonate, -phosphonate, and -carboxylate; and targeting ligand; where the targeting ligand includes amino acids, hormones, antibodies, cell adhesion molecules, folate, polypeptides, vitamins, saccharides, transferrin, drugs, and neurotransmitters; where Q is sulfur, a secondary amine, or oxygen; where Y is a linker peptide having a negative, neutral, or positive charge; and where Z is a polyionic peptide. Specific examples of inventive cholesterol derivatives illustratively include cholestanol, coprostanol, cholic acid, glycocholic acid, chenodeoxycholic acid, desoxycholic acid, glycochenodeoxycholic acid, taurocholic acid, and taurochenodeoxycholic acid. Specific examples of C<sub>8</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> alkyls are 13-hydroxyl tridecanoic acid; 1,12 dodecane diol; and 1,12 dodecanediame.